Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RELATING...

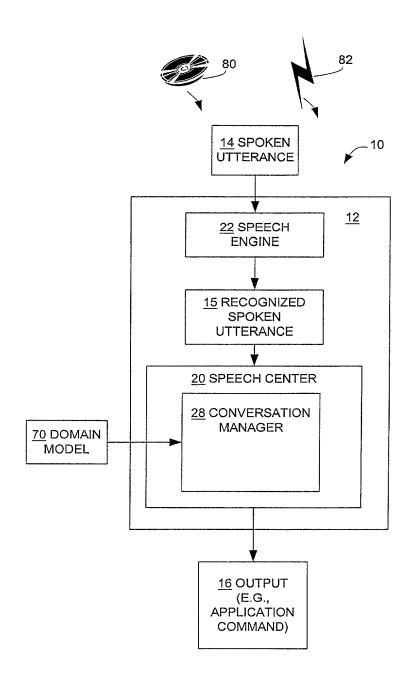


FIG. 1

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RELATING...

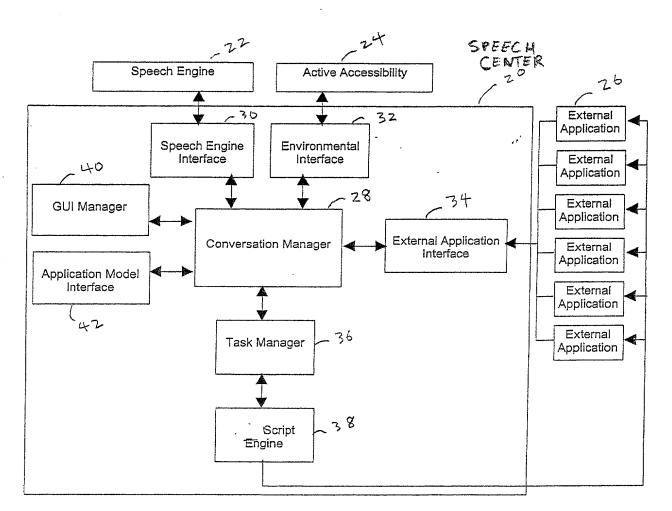


Fig. 2

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RELATING...

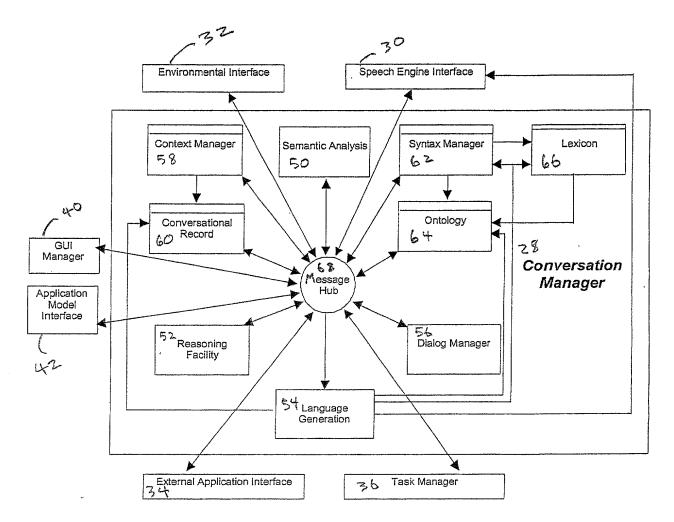


Fig. 3

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RELATING...

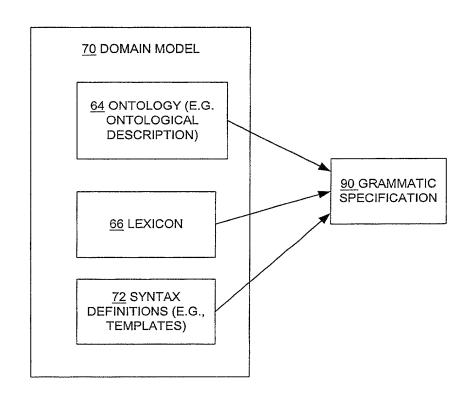


FIG. 4

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Inventors: Steven I. Ross, et al.

100

102 RECEIVE A SPOKEN UTTERANCE FROM A USER OF A COMPUTER SYSTEM, AND RECOGNIZE THE SPOKEN UTTERANCE AS A VALID UTTERANCE.

104 DETERMINE THE CONTEXT OF THE RECOGNIZED SPOKEN UTTERANCE.

106 PROCESS THE RECOGNIZED SPOKEN UTTERANCE USING A GRAMMATIC SPECIFICATION BASED ON A DOMAIN MODEL TO PRODUCE AN INITIAL SEMANTIC REPRESENTATION (E.G., FRAME STRUCTURE) BASED ON THE RECOGNIZED SPOKEN UTTERANCE.

108 PROVIDE AN UTTERANCE PRESENTATION (E.G., SET OF PROPOSITIONS) THAT REPRESENT THE RECOGNIZED SPOKEN UTTERANCE BASED ON THE INITIAL SEMANTIC REPRESENTATION AND THE DOMAIN MODEL.

110 GENERATE A GOAL BASED ON THE UTTERANCE REPRESENTATION.

112 GENERATE A RESPONSE BY ANALYZING THE UTTERANCE BASED ON THE GOAL AND A SET OF GOAL-DIRECTED RULES.

114 GENERATE A RESPONSE OUTPUT (E.G., TEXT STRING FOR AN ANSWER OR QUESTION) TO BE OUTPUT TO THE USER BASED ON THE RESPONSE AND THE DOMAIN MODEL.

116 PLACE THE RESPONSE OUTPUT IN A QUEUE OF OUTPUTS.

118 MANAGE THE DIALOG BETWEEN THE USER AND THE COMPUTER SYSTEM TO PROVIDE THE RESPONSE OUTPUT FROM THE QUEUE TO THE USER AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

120 CONVERT THE RESPONSE OUTPUT TO AN AUDIO OUTPUT TO PROVIDE TO THE USER.